

Biodiversity Net Gain Exemption Statement

Site Details:

- **Proposed Development:** Refurbishment of Existing Place of Worship, including the installation of new air conditioning condensers
- **Location:** Kingdom Hall, 108 Grove Road, Hitchin, SG5 1SQ

Statement:

The proposed development is exempt from the statutory biodiversity net gain (BNG) requirements as outlined in the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Exemptions) Regulations 2024. This exemption applies due to the size and nature of the development, which meets the following criteria:

- **De minimis exemption:** The biodiversity gain planning condition does not apply because the development does not impact an onsite priority habitat and impacts less than 25 square metres of onsite habitat with biodiversity value greater than zero, and less than 5 metres in length of onsite linear habitat

Supporting Evidence:

The proposed development is small-scale and involves the installation of six new air conditioning condensers, wall mounted 300mm above ground level, protruding a maximum of 500mm from wall face; the removal of an existing louvre and replacement with a new one; the replacement of timber cladding with cement board; fitting a new grille for WC extract.

- The aerial view afforded on HIT-P-500 (Proposed site plan) in conjunction with HIT-P-200 (02 Proposed south elevation) are provided to demonstrate how the proposed development sits within the existing site/habitats and how it accords with the exemption claim.